

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (PER HAK NOTE ON S/S 7620332)

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EUR:MR. VINE

EUR/CE:LHEICHLER

S/S - APSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248119

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS INTEREST IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH
US

1. VISITING SECY GENERAL OF FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPART-
MENT ALBERT WEITNAUER IN SEPTEMBER 20 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION
WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION BE
GIVEN TO INSTITUTING REGULAR US-SWISS BILATERAL CONSULTA-
TIONS AT FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL LEVEL.

2. WEITNAUER SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED VIEW TO OTHER DEPART-
MENT OFFICIALS THAT TREND TOWARDS DROIT DE REGARD BY EC
COUNTRIES ACTING INCREASINGLY AS A UNIT REQUIRES OTHER,
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ESPECIALLY SMALLER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LIKE SWITZERLAND, TO

STRENGTHEN THEIR BILATERAL CHANNELS. WEITNAUER CITED CSCE AS A UNIQUE EXAMPLE OF ACTIVE COOPERATION IN THE POLITICAL AREA BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES - NOT JUST NATO MEMBERS - WITH US, AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE IMPORTANCE TO SUCCESSFUL MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS OF GOOD BILATERAL PREPARATIONS.

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SUBSEQUENTLY QUERIED SWISS CHARGE HOHL, WHO ACCOMPANIED WEITNAUER DURING VISIT, CONCERNING WEITNAUER'S SUGGESTION AND EXPECTATIONS. HOHL SAID

SUGGESTION FOR CONSULTATIONS WAS MADE DURING INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH UNDER SECRETARY IN COURSE OF WHICH SUBJECT CAME UP OF SWITZERLAND'S NON-MEMBERSHIP IN UN AND INTEREST IN SEEKING MEANS TO ACTIVATE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS. HOHL'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT WEITNAUER HAS INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT THE UNDER SECRETARY LEVEL IN MIND.

4. SINCE WE ARE IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH THE IDEA OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT WEITNAUER, TELL HIM OF OUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE, AND ARRANGE TO DISCUSS WITH HIM THE DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSAL. ROBINSON

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